

Church History Sr. 7

agency of Almighty God." You see you have a man here with the view of the Lutherans and with the boldness in speaking of Luther but not with the boldness in risking his life with Luther, one who, faced with actual death, gave in, and so Berengar gave in and took everything back and then when he got back to France he began writing as strongly as ever of his view and he called the pope the servant of the devil and he said, "He is indeed anti-Christ. He's not a pontifex but a counterfex and a pulpitifex and the see of Rome is not an apostolic seat but a seat of Satan and he wrote in the strongest language and naturally aroused tremendous feeling against himself and then his old friend Hildebrand became pope, Gregory VII, and Gregory tried to defend him but his enemies said he must either recant or be killed and so again he went to Rome and he thought with his old friend the pope he would be safe enough but Gregory was having his struggle with the emperor and his enemies were saying, "He's defending this heretic and the pope is actually a heretic, too," and so Gregory couldn't protect without risking his own reputation for orthodoxy and so he ordered him to confess his errors and so Berengar said, "Confounded by the sudden madness of the pope and because God in punishment for my sins did not give me a steadfast heart," thus blaming God for his failure to stand for the truth, "because, ^{God} /in punishment for my sins did not give me a steadfast heart—I threw myself on the ground and confessed with impious words that I had erred, fearing the pope would instantly pronounce against me the sentence of excommunication and that as a necessary consequence the populace would hurry me to the worst of deaths". Well, once he'd done this, they gave him another strong statement to make that he believed it was the body and the blood of Christ and retracted everything he had said before and the pope being such a good friend of his, the pope made them be content with his signed statement, even though he'd gone back on it previously, and so the pope not only received the statement from him but wrote letters of recommendation to the bishops in France and one to all the faithful and threatened with anathema and perpetual perdition anyone who would do any harm in person or property to Berengar or who should call him a heretic. So Berengar went back pretty safe after this with these letters from the pope. He returned